

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04453 120916Z
ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04453

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS : OVIP, OREP, TW
SUBJECT : CODEL MANN

REF : STATE 158254

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CONGRESSMAN JAMES R. MANN VISITED TAIPEI FROM JULY 3 TO JULY 7. APPOINTMENTS WITH GROC OFFICIALS INCLUDED CALLS ON PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO, PREMIER SUN, MOFA MINISTER SHEN AND VICE MINISTER CH'EN, ECONOMIC AND JUSTICE MINISTERS, KAOHSIUNG MAYOR AND TAIPEI CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER, ALONG WITH VISITS TO TAIPEI SITES AND KAOHSIUNG INDUSTRIES. MANN GAVE ADDRESSES AT TAMKANG COLLEGE AND TAIPEI KIWANIS CLUB. THE CONGRESSMAN ATTENDED A WORKING LUNCH HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR UNGER AND WAS BRIEFED BY EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS AND DEA.

2. MANN'S VISIT RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN LOCAL CHINESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE SMOOTHLY HANDLED BY MOFA THROUGHOUT CROWDED SCHEDULE ARRANGED FOR HIM.

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3. MANN ADDRESSED SEVERAL ASPECTS OF US-ROC RELATIONS IN PUBLIC ADDRESSES AT TAMKANG COLLEGE, KIWANIS CLUB AND IN INTERVIEWS WHICH WERE REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS. HE CHARACTERIZED NORMALIZATION AS "A QUESTION OF HOW AND WHEN INSTEAD OF A QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT." MANN STRESSED THAT MOST AMERICANS DID NOT WISH TO SEE NORMALIZATION HARM ROC SECURITY OR INDEPENDENCE, AND

PREDICTED NO SERIOUS SETBACKS TO ROC AS CONSEQUENCE OF CARRYING OUT THIS POLICY. HE REPORTEDLY SAID CONGRESS WILL NOT ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO DO ANYTHING HARMFUL TO THE ROC IN NORMALIZATION EFFORTS, BUT WAS ALSO QUOTED IN ANOTHER ACCOUNT AS POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT CAN CARRY OUT NORMALIZATION "WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS OR THE PEOPLE." AT THE TAMKANG ADDRESS MANN OPINED THAT PEKING MIGHT ACCEPT THE FIRST TWO OF THE THREE SO-CALLED "U.S. CONDITIONS" DISCUSSED AT THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION MEETING JUNE 13 (U.S. TRADE OFFICE; AND CONTINUED TRADE, INCLUDING ARMS) BUT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE THIRD, ENTAILING A PLEDGE OF NOT RESORTING TO FORCE OVER THE TAIWAN QUESTION. MANN SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. ADMINISTRATION MIGHT YIELD AND NOT INSIST ON FORMAL PROMISE FROM PEKING, BUT RATHER MAKE UNILATERAL STATEMENT REGARDING SECURITY OF TAIWAN WHILE SEEKING PEKING'S TACIT CONSENT. REGARDING NORMALIZATION MANN SAID, "THERE WON'T BE ANY REPERCUSSIONS EXCEPT PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS." END

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4. COMMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMAN MANN REGARDING RELATIVE LACK OF U.S. PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AND INTEREST IN TAIWAN QUESTION WERE WIDELY INTERPRETED
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BY LOCAL PRESS AS ENCOURAGING ROC TO REKINDLE INTEREST AND OPPOSITION TO NORMALIZATION THROUGH EVERY POSSIBLE CHANNEL. (NOTE: CONGRESSMAN MANN TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT HIS REMARKS HAD BEEN DISTORTED IN PRESS AND HE DID NOT INTEND TO ADVOCATE A PRESSURE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NORMALIZATION). THE LIEN HO PAO AND TZU LI WAN PAO NOTED THAT MANN FAVORED THE "GERMAN FORMULA" AS RESOLUTION TO NORMALIZATION PROBLEM, RAISING AGAIN THE TWO-CHINA THEME WHICH NOW PERIODICALLY RECEIVED SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT IN LOCAL PRESS. CONGRESSMAN MANN'S VISIT STRUCK A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN EXPRESSING THE PROBABILITY OF NORMALIZATION IN NEAR FUTURE AND CONTINUED U.S. CONCERN FOR PEOPLE OF TAIWAN. PRESS COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT WAS UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, NO DOUBT IN PART DUE TO MANN'S UPBEAT QUOTES SUCH AS "I TOTALLY REGRET THE DOOMSDAY IDEA BECAUSE YOU HAVE A MARVELOUSLY STRONG AND VIABLE ECONOMY." UNGER

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